

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, claims 3 and 13 are objected to because of the informalities. Since these claims are now cancelled, the objection is moot.

Claims 1-3, 9-13, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Uchiike et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,527). In response, Applicants amended claims 1, 2, 11 and 12 to clarify that the control step controls a driving current, which is applied to the driving part to drive the arm so as to undergo a gradual change during at least one of the load operation for a head feed operation that feeds the head towards the recording medium, and an unload operation as the unload operation is completed, and respectfully traverse.

Independent claims 1 and 11 are amended to recite that a driving current is controlled so as to undergo a gradual change during at least one of 1) a load operation for a head feed operation, and 2) an unload operation. These amendments to the claims are fully supported by the original disclosure on page 14, line 15-28 of the specification including FIGs. 9 and 10B, and also page 20, lines 24-27 of the specification including FIGs. 19 and 20B, and original claims 3 and 13.

As shown in FIGs. 9 and 10B, the driving current is controlled to undergo a gradual change during a load operation for a head feed operation (indicated by (D) in FIG. 10B), which feeds the head toward the recording medium. As shown in FIGs. 19 and 20B, the driving current is also controlled so as to undergo a gradual change during an unload operation, when completing the unload operation (indicated by (F) in FIG. 20B). As a result,

the present invention advantageously suppresses generation of mechanical noise during the load/unload operations, unlike Uchiike.

In Uchiike, the voice coil motor (VCM) current undergoes a sharp change during a loading operation, as indicated by P1 in Fig. 4(a). The VCM current also undergoes a sharp change during an unloading operation, as indicated by P2 in Fig. 4(b). As a result, Uchiike cannot suppress the generation of mechanical noise during the load/unload operation, as in the present invention. For these reasons, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claims 1-2, 9-12 and 20-21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-8 and 14-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchiike, in view of one or more of the Ito (U.S. Patent No. 5,315,455), Huang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,583,964), Phan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,760,992) and Koizumi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,570) references.

Applicants traverse the rejection. Since claims 4-8 and 14-19 ultimately depend upon independent claims 1 and 11, respectfully, they necessarily include all of the features of their associated independent claims plus other additional features. Thus, Applicants submit that the §103 rejections of claims 4-8 and 14-19 have also been overcome for the same reasons mentioned above to overcome the rejections of independent claims 1 and 11, and because the additional cited references fail to overcome the deficiencies of the Uchiike reference. Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejections of claims 4-8 and 14-19 also be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By

Joseph P. Fox
Joseph P. Fox
Registration No. 41,760

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300 South Wacker Drive - Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 360-0080
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315
Customer Number 24978